THE SENTINEL 2

Friday Morning 2 April 2010 odysseynews.2010@googlemail.com

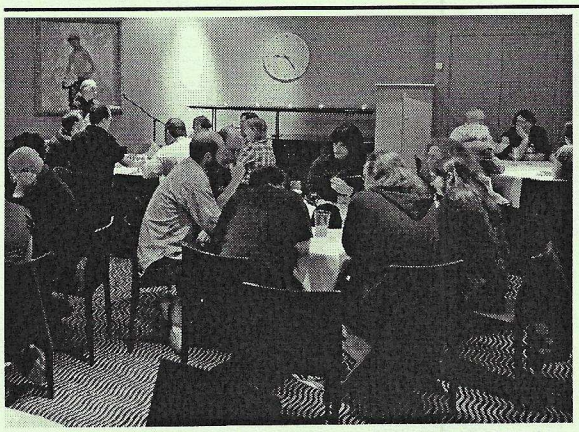


Photo: Bo Hansen

NO PUB QUIZ RESULT?

The illustrious winning team of the Pub Quiz on Thursday evening unfortunately cannot be named. Apparently the winning team had no name. The rumour that the quiz was won by an unnamed team cannot be confirmed.

TAFF DELEGATES ARE GO!!!

TAFF, the Transtlantic Fan Fund, has been bringing North Americans to party in Europe, and vice-versa, for more than 50 years. This year's winners, Anne KG Murphy and Brian Gray, are here at Eastercon, bringing great stories and funny accents to all of European fandom!

You can certainly meet Anne and Brian, along with a bunch of former TAFF and GUFF winners, at the League of Fan Funds auction starting at 9:30 pm on Saturday.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

As of 9.30am Friday, walk-in memberships had taken the numbers past 1250. If you know anyone dithering about coming, even for one day, now's the time to persuade them!

BREAKFAST ROOM

Despite the programme scheduling of breakfast from 7 am to 10.30 am the hotel are in fact looking to stop serving by 10.15 am. Please make sure you arrive before this.

MEAL TICKETS

Tickets for all meals are now available from the Atrium bar *and* from the Brasserie. Please buy your ticket in advance.

NO RAIL STRIKE –AGAIN!

The well advertised and promoted strike by certain rail workers will not happen on the dates advertised. Those who will not be severely inconvenienced by this news may well decide not to apply to the High Court for no compensation.

QI

There is a sign-in sheet at Reception for any volunteers who wish to test their knowledge in a Quite Interesting quiz (in the style of the Stephen Fry-hosted TV show). The first few volunteers will form a team—but you can't all be Alan Davies!

The quiz will be held Saturday at 10 pm in room 12.

NAMING PLUTO: TODAY AT 3PM!

Let's say you're an 11 year girl and you are asked to name the most recently discovered planet. That actually happened to Veretia Burney back in the 1930s, and Ginitia Jimenez made a wonderful documentary on the day of her 89th birthday, to celebrate the young woman who named Pluto.

Odyssey is pleased to present this engaging documentary today at 3 pm in Room 42. If you believe that Pluto is still a planet, you'll want to see this magnificent short film.

FLICKR GROUP IS LIVE!

If you're a Flickr user, you can upload your photos of the con to the Flickr Group Odyssey 2010. Feel free to load your favourite photos to the group so all of Odyssey can share in the fun!

VOLUNTEERS STILL WANTED

The Sentinel, the official newsletter of Odyssey 2010, is appealing for reports, photographs, gossip and volunteers. If you know what you want to see in your newsletter but don't want to write it yourself, just come and see us in room 37! The newsletter office is in the **Business Centre** on the third floor.

The **BUSINESS CENTRE**
is **CLEARLY MARKED**
on the **GLASS PANELS**

NORTH-WEST MORRIS

This morning our head of programming, Judith Proctor, took some time out from running the programme to teach approximately 20 daring convention members to perform the Ashford Under Lyne dance; a Morris dance in the North-West style. Nearly all started out as complete beginners but by the end of the session were ranting and calling out for ale like well-seasoned fans^h^hMorris dancers. For those of you who missed this session, she will be running it again at 11 am on Monday.

FRIDAY PROGRAMME CHANGES

'Pink sheets' will be available throughout the Convention with any last minute changes as well. Keep watching The Sentinel for more information too.

New Item: 1pm Royal C&D 'Apple Tasting Workshop - All Apples Taste the Same? or do they?'
Come along and find out for yourselves.

SUITCASE GOING BEGGING

The illustrious Anders Frihagen has a surplus suitcase available for free or no money or nothing. This suitcase has a very low mileage—probably less than 20.

A MESSAGE FROM ERHARDT

Erhardt from Germany regrets that he can't be with us this weekend but hopes to be at Novacon and 2011 Eastercon. He sends his best wishes for a happy convention to you all.

YOU ARE TOO LATE

If you wanted to play April Fool jokes—when you read this you're too late—it is the 2nd April, and Odyssey officially opens today.

TLL MEET

Attention members of The Ladies Loos! We *still* had no firm decision on an official meet so let's try to meet up at the Ceilidh tonight? Leave a note for Jacqui at the Newsletter if you're interested.

CONVENTION CLOTHING

There are already lots of people wearing Odyssey 2010 official merchandise—join them and get yourself kitted out. There are T-shirts and hoodies on sale—just ask at Registration.
You can also buy raffle tickets to win your very own animatronic dinosaur (Pleo).

ODYSSEY-BY-THE-NUMBERS

By Chris Garcia
Number of Registered Attendees – 1256 (more or less);
Number of panels on schedule for Friday – 70;
Number of former TAFF winners on site – 12;
Number of steps from nearest bar to newsletter office – 32;
Number of Extinction-level asteroids within striking distance of Earth – at least 2;
Number of bondage/BDSM panels I've attended – 0, but the con, she is still young.

Photo: John Wilson

HOSTAGE BEEBLEBEAR!

This beeblebear was found wandering last night and taken hostage—she's doing well but keeps trying to phone for room service!

GLASGOW OR LONDON?

Join the launch party for the UK 2014 Worldcon Bid in Newbury 1 at 9 pm Friday. Join us for a drink and the announcement of which city will be bidding.

THE SENTINEL 3

Friday Afternoon 2 April 2010 odysseynews.2010@googlemail.com

FOOD ALONG BATH ROAD

Farah Mendlesohn posted some useful food suggestions to her Livejournal for those wanting to grab food outside of the Radisson Edwardian.

"What I've done is to start at the Heathrow Airport end, and end at the turn off to Hatton Cross. I have placed in bold the ones I think are the best value for money.

"**Three Magpies pub**. Food 11am to 9.30pm. Monday thru Saturday. Sunday food is served 12-9. Pub food £7 entree. Serves London pride and bombardier. Basic malts.

"Park Inn: in foyer bar salads, burgers, pasta and bar food (12-20) offers a veggie burger. Also French restaurant £16-30 but offers Sunday lunch for £9.95.

"Small Somerfield at Texaco Garage and then if you turn right there is a pizza place set back from the road, also **Sovereign Food and Wine shop** which makes sandwiches to order and sells take away curry and salads. (curries £6, sandwiches (£2.50). A nicer shop than it looks from outside.

"Marriott: Illy coffee bar which sells sandwiches; American grill (£13-20); Tuscany Ristorante (£17-25)

"Sheraton: Starbucks in the lobby; **sports bar (lunch on Sat and Sun only) has sandwiches and curries (£10-15)**; Al Dente lounge sandwiches and salads (£10-13); restaurant (lunch £15-20) dinner one course £17, 2=£22, 3=£26)

"Rennaissance: entrees £16-24. Sandwiches and burgers £10-13.

"The next two are further up the road. I know nothing about the Holiday Inn but the Ibis has a rep for being cheaper than the others."

UPDATE

For those looking for the nearest shops, if you tried the small Somerfield petrol station on Bath Road in vain this morning: the shop was just closed to the public this morning, due to repair work being carried out on the main entrance door. However, they assure us they'll be open again from 3pm and they're usually open 24 hours.

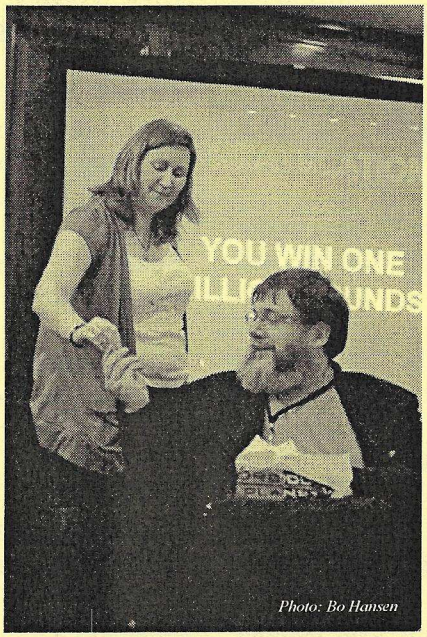


Photo: Bo Hansen

Michael Cule, better known as exploding man from Max Headroom, can today add another title to his CV. With assistance from his minions, the audience, Michael answered all the question correctly in the today's quiz and was crowned Master of the Universe

SIGNUP SHEETS AT OPS

Signup sheets for the Kaffeeklatsches and Drawing Comic Art have been moved to Ops, which is located in room 32 on the third floor.

KEEP COOL!

Be aware that even moving around the minibar contents may get it charged to your room bill; you might request to have the whole contents removed if you think this is going to be a problem.

AUDIO FANZINE

Jim Mowatt is doing an audio fanzine at this convention. It's at eastercon.mevio.com. He has three episodes up so far, including an interview with our chief editor Wilf James.

TWITTERING!

The podcast panel, Podcasts – Science Fiction and SF News, at 7pm in room 12 will accept questions from Twitter. If anyone wants to discuss (before and after as well), the tag is #easterpod

ODYSSEY BY THE NUMBERS

By Chris Garcia

Number of Attendees as of 2pm - 1280 (only 1203 of those bodies warm).

WorldCon bids for 2014 announcing their location at 9pm in Room Newbury 1 - 1

Breakfast Meats Served in Buffet - 6

Guests of Honour I've confused with American pro wrestlers - 1 (Mike Carey)

points scored for playing 'Qwyjibo' in Scrabble (American edition) - 81 pts.

Nouns verbed by Americans on Eastercon panels - 47

Bondage/BDSM panels attended so far - 0, though I did tie my shoes pretty tight earlier…

MEAL TICKET PRICES

The buffet style dinner tickets today (and for the duration of the convention) are £10.

PROGRAMME CHANGES AND ADDITIONS AS OF 1PM FRIDAY

As Carlos Ezquerra is sadly unable to join us this weekend, there are some changes in our main programme stream. The first of these is Saturday 10am in Commonwealth will now be "2000 AD and its influence", moved forward from 1pm. Carlos's Kaffeeklatsch is cancelled.

Saturday 10am in room 41 is "First timers meeting" – a chance for those who haven't been to an Eastercon before to find out what's going on and how to navigate through it. Our friendly native guide, Chris, will answer all your questions.

Saturday 11am in Room 42 will be "Aliens in our Midst" – different fan groups and cultures, and how to reconcile them.

Saturday 11am in Room 41 will be "So We Had an Empire Once" - is cultural appropriation something British writers should be interrogating more closely? With Farah Mendlesohn, Tanya Brown, Niall Harrison, Ian R McLeod + tbc.

Ben Goldacre is confirmed for 12pm Saturday.

10pm Saturday in Connaught is the ever popular Buffy singalong "Once More with Feeling"

Sunday 1pm Room 12 is now "Approaches to Writing" with Iain M Banks and Ken McLeod.

Sunday 1pm room 42 is "Fan Programming" – what this has traditionally meant at Eastercon, and what it could mean in the future. A discussion led by Fran Dowd.

Sunday 2pm in room 18 is The Body Muteable - how has feminism, queer theory and neuroscience changed the way we write the sf body?

Sunday 3pm room 42 is "The nature and Future of Eastercon" – a wide ranging discussion, including themes from "Aliens in our Midst" and "Fan Programming."

Sunday 4pm in room 41 is "What do we Mean when we say Mainstream: Iain Banks's black and white novels" Chris Hill, Abigial Nussbaum, Graham Sleight, Ruth O'Reilly, Farah Mendlesohn.

"The new pink is slightly off colour."

Judge Dredd and Strontium Dog - Heroes or Anti-Heroes? Moves to Sunday 6pm in Room 12.

Sunday 9pm in Room 42 is a screening of Shark Attack! – a John Barrowman classic (???).
Two marine biologists discover a giant shark's tooth off the coast of Mexico, and their worst fears become reality - the tooth is that of Megalodon, a prehistoric shark with a 100 foot-wide bite. The creature was believed to be long-extinct, but when tourists start turning up in pieces, the authorities decide that a decisive plan of action is required. Rated 15 (apparently for the shower scene…)

Sunday 10pm in Royal C&D is the Rocky Horror Picture Show.

Monday 11am room 40 is "Eastercon 2011 & 2012, what do you want to see?" with representatives from the 2011 and 2012 bid committees.

Monday 5pm in Royal C&D is a gopher debrief – if you have been a gopher, come and tell us how it was for you!

(adv)

Futures is the award-winning SF stream in Nature. If you are an SF writer, or aspire to be, and fancy a crack at writing a short-short (850-950 words) for the world's premier science magazine, inquire at futures@nature.com or find editor Henry Gee here at Eastercon.

SCRUMPY

Review of Old Rosie scrumpy (Available at the Bar, no not that one, the other one…)
The bar's scrumpy has a lovely, slightly somewhat obfuscated florality that is adjudicated by a sense of long-ago sorrow and slight pomegranate tones. It's also pretty tasty, especially after 5 or 12 pints.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

The Sentinel is desperate for news - where are all you guys going to, what interesting bits did you overhear, what great place did you have dinner at? Please bring in all these traditionally factual and even unconventionally fantastic tidbits, preferrably semi-legibly written on pieces of parchment to the Newsroom - room 37 - just off the atrium. Or, for the more futuristically minded, e-mailed to odysseynews.2010@googlemail.com.

THE SENTINEL 4

Friday Afternoon 2 April 2010 odysseynews.2010@googlemail.com

CAR PARKING AT THE RADISSON

If you want the special £5 deal you have to buy your ticket from the concierge at reception. If you pay into the ticket machine it will charge the full rate.

LIGHTS ON!

If you have a green VW Van, R230 YHK, you have left your lights on.

MIKE CAREY SIGNING

Mike Carey will be signing at the Astral Gypsy table in the Dealers' Room at 4 pm Saturday.

BONUS AUTHOR ACTION

As well as stocking quality Pagan artifacts, GoH Liz Williams' stall in the dealers' room will be hosting impromptu book signings throughout the con. Authors likely to be found lurking may include (but are not limited to) Liz herself, Kari Sperring, Chaz 'Daniel Fox' Brenchley, and Jaine 'J N' Fenn.

Special offer! Free dodgy snax available with every book sold (while stocks last).

WHITE TACK GOOD, BLU-TACK BAD

When sticking up flyers and posters around the hotel please use white tack, not Blu-Tack.

BLATANT PLUGS FROM DAVE LALLY

(Blatant plug No1)

There is quite a large extensive display of fliers/ posters for future Cons (worldwide) situated just outside the ladies (that's on the stairway down from 3rd floor Atrium to Ground Floor). So if you have enjoyed Odyssey 2010, go to another Con soon!

(Blatant plug No2)

Here in the London area next weekend (or have you reached SF saturation point—what with Corflu/World Horror etc already over)?

Next Fri/Sat/Sun there is a Free London Prisoner locations tour. We also cover one scene from The Avengers (colour Rigg series).

Details are on the Con display above (or go to www.theunmutual.co.uk/events). BCNU

ROOM 42

Videos are being shown in Room 42. Running order is listed outside the room.

FOUND PROPERTY

If Tony Thorne MBE can come to Ops (Room 32), they have something of value for him.

FAN FUNDERY

Things you can do at the Cold Tonnage Books table in the Dealers' Room.

(1) Vote for GUFF (the Going Under Fan Fund), which you can also do via http://pcwww.liv.ac.uk/~lister/guff and Paypal, provided you do so before 23:59 BST on Monday—or see Ang Rosin in the bar when the Dealers' Room is closed.

(2) Buy a membership for Aussiecon Four, the Worldcon in Melbourne this year (2-6 September), which you can also do via Paypal and www.aussiecon4.org.au—attending membership currently £140 or €165.

(3) Donate contributions to the fan fund auction, which will be held at 9:30 pm on Saturday.

(4) Buy books, which you can also do via www.coldtonnage.com or many other friendly booksellers in the Dealers' Room.

The Dealers' Room, that great bastion of commerce & free trade, well-deserving of your browsing & of course some of the contents of your wallet! With merchandise ranging from books for every taste, games, crafts, jewellery, clothes & assorted designs of T-shirts to, of course, Beeblebears.

THE OTHER ART DISPLAY

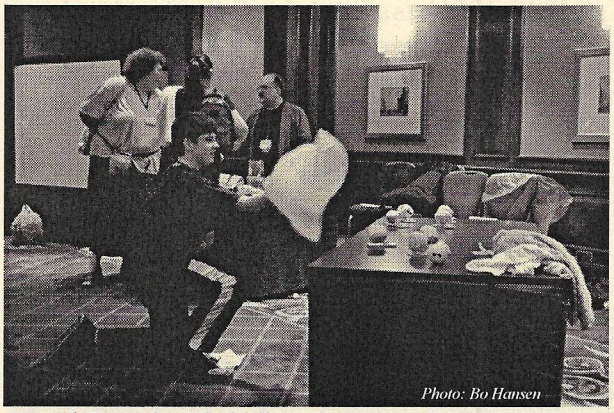
When you are wandering the maze of twisty passages, take a look at the art on the walls: the hotel has a nice selection of framed art on the walls, textiles, drawings and more.

Caroline Mullan.

EASTERCON OVERVIEW

The convention is going strong this fine Friday afternoon. It is your past, as you read this, but it is our present as we write this. So as your roving reporter, I am here to tell you what you all have been doing today or what you should have been doing, if you had had the time, the inclination, the insanity, or the strange friends to drag you to any of these items. We're sure you went to even better panels, but you should have told us about them if you wanted to have them reviewed in The Sentinel, instead of waiting for us to pop by and spend our time on rather more random other sessions.

We can happily report there was much random chaos going on in the Hitchhiker Games at 4 pm today, where towel origami took off like a speedy jet, and the crew went out to get bags of extra towels from the hotel to satisfy popular demand by those who didn't bring their own DON'T PANIC towel. How can you even leave home without it?!



Towel Fu at the Hitchhiker Games.

The well-advertised *Naming Pluto* showing was well-attended at 3 pm, in the small video room 42, aptly named, seeing the above paragraph! The TV screen was not formatted properly to the 16x9 format, which may be something for Tech to take a look at for the next showing on Sunday at 11 am. It's a short, sweet little programme that is well worth watching and at the 13 minute running time, it's well worth watching it at the right aspect ratio. If it doesn't clash with your fannish priorities, catching the second viewing is highly recommended by this reporter.

Earlier today attendees were still pouring into the building by the truckload, and the parking lot is overstuffed with fannish cars. We can't exactly see on the outside of the car that they are fannish, but it stands to reason that when prodded some of them will be saying things like, 'by your command', 'where's your towel?', or even 'DON'T PANIC!' Personally I'd love to see some Torino stripes or even a Confederate flag on the top of an orange car, but that's just the media fan in me. Things like that may just get a chuckle out of most of the serious SF attendees at best, or the shaking of the head, and moving on to the Animatronics—Artificial Intelligence panel, which was run at 12 pm.

Steampunk has done wonders for the dress sense of the British male. @CherylMorgan

On the subject of fringe things, there is definitely some random knitting going on at this convention, apparently a need that can't be suppressed, as witnessed by the Stitch'n'Bitch session in Henley's Drawing room on Sunday at 1 pm and the Sock Knitting workshop at 7 pm, also on Sunday. There are quite a few sessions involving knitting, including the early morning craft sessions every day, with a dead serious session on the knitted alien race, the Clangers on Monday at 3 pm! So if you didn't take knitting seriously now (or your friend who knits and you're baffled as to what s/he likes about it), that should drive the point home.

From rumours around the convention this reporter estimated the attendance at the *Doctor Who* Easter Special showing Saturday night will be over 90% of the convention. Let's hope the main hall can provide good seating and video for this mammoth event. Going by the murmurs in the hallways, there is already grumbling about *Doctor Who* clashing with the buffet dinner. The verdict on the empty stomach is unanimous: *Doctor Who* wins, hands down, so expect the buffet to be poorly attended until *Doctor Who* is over.

The Main Hall is looking good, still as oblong as it ever was, which chased media conventions away in the past (sorry, Radisson! History is fact, deal with it). Perhaps this superlative Eastercon can make the Main Hall work for its panels and showings. I talked to Tech and they say the sound, even in the far back of the auditorium, is as good as it gets. To my untrained, fannish ears, it sounds g-o-o-d! Much better than the media cons I attended. Those with poor eyesight might want to get in early and sit at the front, because the hall is very long. If your sight is good, you might want to sit more towards the back if you want to avoid feeling overcrowded. You see, there's a right spot for everyone!

Ilana Grune

Newsletter team: Wilf James, Eddie Cochrane, Jan van't Ent,
and a cast of 'honest and helpful' gophers, volunteers and random passers-by.

THE SENTINEL 5

Saturday morning 3 April 2010 odysseynews.2010@googlemail.com

IT'S FULL OF FANS

Photo: Bo Hansen

The audience loved the Space Odyssey intro to the Opening Ceremony, and awarded it with a roaring applause! Thank you, Tech and Crew!

Commonwealth held up beautifully to a crammed attendance, so it bodes well for the Doctor Who showing on Saturday. Hint hint. Chris O'Shea 'The Magician' did a fine job presenting the Odyssey committee, and improvising when Guest of Honour Mike Carey was reported to still be in the bar – when his name for presentation was called. Then a hand went up in the front row, and there was the man himself, not dallying in the bar, but freaking out the MC and entertaining himself and the audience.

The Magician also told us which European country won the Eastercon attendance race, Odyssey also being an official Euroconvention. Sweden won, only just beating the Norwegians – who tied with the Dutch.

We Dutch are everywhere; two of us are in The Sentinel team. It is truly international anyway, so don't be scared to offer your writing services to the Newsletter, as we know you can do it. We can, after all! *-Ilana*

#Eastercon Internet is running at 1998 Porn speeds. This is better than I expected... @jonnyenponymous

OVER THE TOP QUEUEING!

The 4pm Whiskey Tasting with Iain M. Banks had a line that started late last night and by 9:15am, there were already more than the tasting could handle. The queue for the queue to queue is also over-subscribed.

If you still want to be a part of the action, here's a suggestion: Buy yourself a whiskey at the bar. Go and watch Room 12 at 4pm. Close your eyes and pretend you're one of them up front.

If you're a stand-by, check-in with Ops around 4pm for any up-dates.

Rumours that Iain Banks is planning a Harvey Wallbanger tasting are, at present, unconfirmed.

ODYSSEY-BY-THE-NUMBERS

By Christopher J Garcia

Number of Registered People, Apocraphals, Beeblebears, Infants and Scallywags Registered – 1306

Americans confused by the phase 'Half-Seven' – 3.5

Hugos won by Dave Langford – 28

Hugos won by Dave Langford-Smith – 0 (as of today)

Parallel Universes in which Dave Langford is the cricketer and Dave Langford-Smith is the Hugo-winning writer and fanzine editor – 73,201

Bondage/BDSM panels attended – 0, but that's because I was all tied-up…

Jokes stolen from Steve Green for this article – 1

TRANSATLANTIC IMMUNITY

Introduction to Allergies talk: TAFF delegate and immunologist Brian Gray informed a packed room that he has an interchangeable bottom half for performing multiple functions.

FANTASTIC

Free copies of the F&SF magazine, courtesy of Gordon Van Gelder (ed.), available at Fantast Three table in Dealer's Room.

THE A-MEN: SPREAD THE WORD!

For this competition drop by John Trevellian's table in the lobby of the Dealer's Room to check out the 'sexy, dancing, ultra-violent' novel *The A-Men* and get a chance to win a pair of Bose Quiet Comfort headphones or visit www.trevillian.com.

Photo: Bo Hansen

SAY WHAT?

Last night's 'It's Sh*t But We Like It' panel came to a startling conclusion. We like film and TV-series with a pretty cast, preferably taking their kit off, and big explosions. It was also noted that any movie with dialogue like 'If I am not back in 5 minutes, call the pope.' is not sh*t.

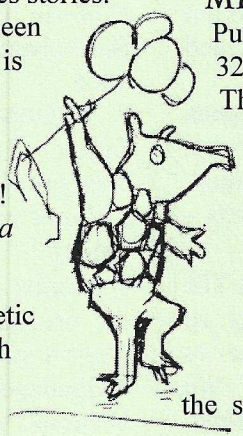
BAR(T)ITSU

Let's say that you're a gentleman of the 1890s and you need to defend yourself against the ruffians of London. If you've got a walking stick and an overcoat, you can turn yourself into a indestructible defending machine using the style Bartitsu, later immortalized by Arthur Conan Doyle as Baritsu in his Sherlock Holmes stories. Recently, this long-dormant style has been revived around the world and Odyssey is proud to be able to present this demonstration at 4pm in Royal B + C.
Come and see how the gentlemen of yesteryear would have clocked a sucka!
-Chris Garcia

CÉILIDH

Last night's dance was a fun and energetic céilidh courtesy of Pigeon English, with Liam Robinson calling. The music was top-notch as always. They played two full sets with an hour-long intermission featuring music and singing by Gwen and *Playing Rapunzel*. A lively crowd of fans packed the dance floor for a succession of familiar and a few slightly less well-known dances, concluding at 1am with an Orcadian *Strip-the-Willow* and a variation on the *Circassian Circle*.
The Saturday night dance will be a *New Romantics* themed disco with Marwan DJ-ing. Dressing up is optional but highly encouraged - the more outrageous the better! *-Alex Holden*

"Morris is not an airy-fairy dance!" Judith Proctor. @jonnyenponymous


Clanger learning folk-dancing - SMS

STARGATING!

The sign-up sheets for Monday's Stargate game are on the wall by the door that connects the Games Room to Royal B.

MERCHANDISE PICK-UP

Some people still need to come pick up (and pay for) your pre-ordered merchandise at registration: Craig Arnush (1002), Gaspode (105), Tony Hammond, M. Hutchison (93), Rita Medany (104), Judith Proctor, Neil Summerfield (306).

DOUBLY RECOMMENDED

Six early arrivals had dinner at the London Hong Kong on Thursday. The food was good, some dishes better than others, but the special honey roast pork was excellent. The restaurant was busy, so make sure to book first. *-Cristina Pulido Ulvang*

London Hong Kong restaurant may be a bit pricey, but the food is well worth it!
For starters the Shark Fin soup was quite good, and the crispy duck with pancakes was excellent, the sea bass too, and the South Australian wine was fine. A large part of the clientele were Chinese people, so that must count as a good sign as well. *-Niall Gordon*

MEANWHILE, ELSEWHERE

Punjabi Spice
320 Bath Road, Hounslow - 2.5 miles
This place is not on the Outside Readme list but is worth a short drive. The food is very good (the *murg saagwala* and basmati rice were excellent), there's nothing wrong with the service and the prices are reasonable; for two starters and two main courses plus two Pepsis and two Kingfisher lagers we paid £40, including a generous tip. The vegetarian menu is exceptionally long and the spiciness of main courses can be specified when you order. I didn't particularly enjoy the Bollywood soundtrack but you may, and it wasn't overbearing.

MUTTERINGS FROM MR. SORENSON

I am reliable informed that Harry Potter and the Half Cut Prince features 4 entirely new and novel jokes, unless you've been to Novacon or read Dave Langfords' SFX column, in which case they'll be no new jokes or two new jokes to look forward to respectively. In spite of this the work has its normal compliment of plagiarisms, sorry, homage to others, humorous offerings and looks to be a suitable entertaining show continuing in the tradition of such masterpieces such as *A Fist Full of Hobbits* et al.

Newsletter team: Wilf James, Eddie Cochrane, Jan van't Ent,
and a cast of 'honest and helpful' gophers, volunteers and random passers-by.

THE SENTINEL 6

Saturday afternoon 3 April 2010 odysseynews.2010@googlemail.com

LONDON IN 2014 WORLDCON BID

At the Worldcon Bid Launch Party hosted by Chris Priest on Friday night, the Newbury suite was packed with fans eager to hear the announcement of the location chosen for the 2014 bid. Having eliminated such locations as Glasgow, Rockall and Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogogoch, the bid city of London was announced, and the bid for the 2014 Worldcon officially launched. To the sound of The Clash's 'London Calling' the launch video showed London as it has appeared in science fiction TV and movies, mostly with Big Ben being destroyed by dragons, V, and Doctor Who villians.

London in 2014 bid logo with Gherkin and Spaceship. Twice the phallic symbolism, twice the fun!

The bid plans to hold the Worldcon at the new International Conference Centre, ExCel, in London Docklands on the weekend of 14-18 August 2014.

Pre-support and Friend memberships are available now from their bid table right in the middle of the Dealers' Room. These will give you a discount on your membership if the bid is successful. If you want to get involved, why not go along and volunteer to help with the bid. There is a free coach tour to get a preview of the new convention centre in Docklands leaving 10am Monday, and expecting to get back 3.15-3.30pm. Sign up for the tour at the bid desk any time today or Sunday. For more information go along and ask them at their table, or check out the bid web site at *www.londonin2014.org*

@c_dave #eastercon Gender exaggeration on comics. "Garfield's girl cat doesn't have six giant breasts."

DOCTOR WHO DEBUT!

Doctor Who, a small television programme that's been around since briefly after the Earth cooled, will be having the premiere of The Eleventh Hour, the first adventure of the 11th Doctor. It all starts tonight at 18.20 (or 6:20 to Americans, 1011010011101 to our robot friends) and you can join a gaggle of Eastercon's attendees to see it live on the big screen in the Commonwealth. Be prepared for hot Doctorial action!

Expect the Con to grind to a halt while the programme is on!

ODYSSEY BY THE NUMBERS

By Chris Garcia

Number of Registered-types for this here con – **1367**

Number of people lined up at 9am for the Iain Banks Whisky Tasting at 4pm – **>50**

Number of tries it took to remember that > meant greater than - **4** *(actually 5 Ed.)*

Number of Beeblebears that attacked me following their picnic – **3**

Number of Bondage/BDSM panels attended – **0**, unless that knitting panel counts…

LIFT TO OXFORD NEEDED

A ride is needed to Oxford after 10pm this evening. Contact Sean 07899 094772

EXTRA PROGRAMME ITEM

Meet the ESFS, Sunday Room 18 – 21:00 (9pm)

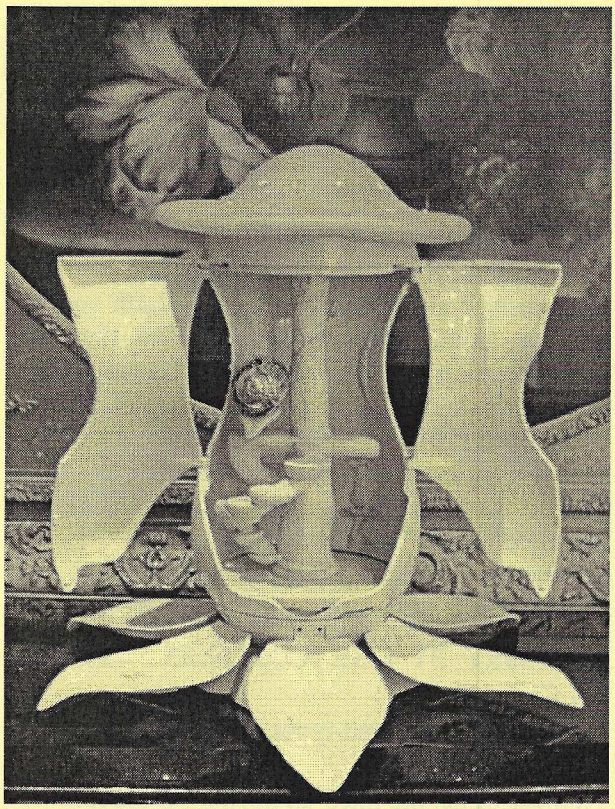
Join other fans attending this Eastercon/Euro-conference (those from the european continent are especially welcome) in an informal Meeting with the Board of the European SF Society (all 4 of whom are here at the con).

Amongst items up for discussion are: how the ESFS can assist in your own national fandom; in publicising your own National SF Con outside your own country; in promoting more Continental involvement in TAFF, GUFF etc (the various Fan Funds) and in the interesting proposal by Steve Green re. a European Fan Fund.

BCNU Dave Lally ESFS Chair

FRIENDLY SCANDINAVIANS

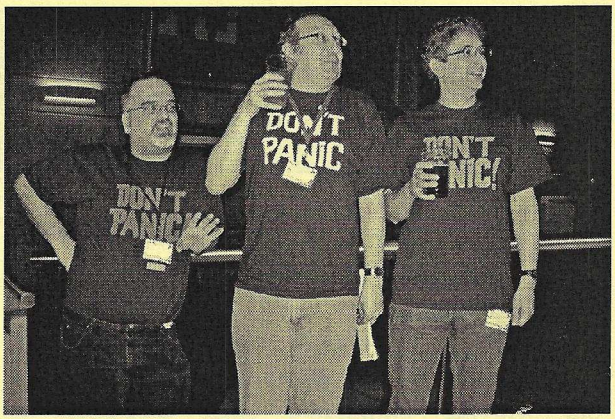
You are invited to the traditional Scandinavian Room Party in Newbury 1, 9pm Saturday. The largest fraction of non-UK attendees will welcome you, not with battle axes, but with drinks of various alcoholic flavours and fannish talk.



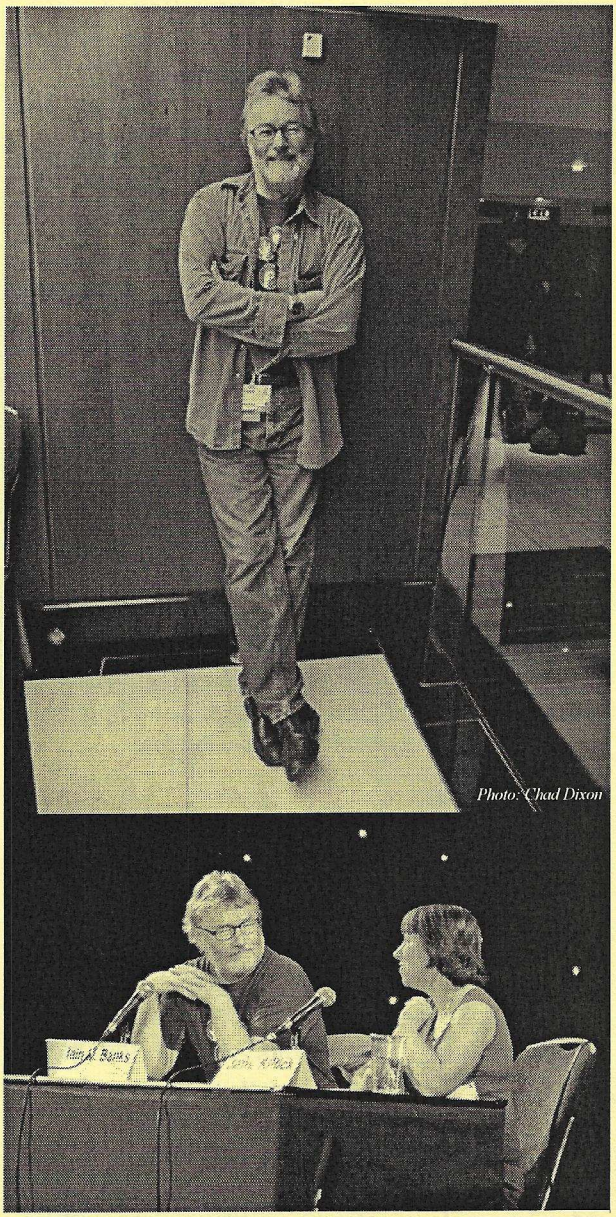
Yes!! - The Phlosque Award (above) is being awarded to whichever sensitive artwork with significance you nominate in the Art show. Last year's winner was Anne Stokes. Who will the public nominate this year?

Games Room going strong .

Lots of games to play, come see in Royal A.



The surreal ale drinkers of ZZ9 out in force.



Guest of Honour Iain Banks around the con.

@emmajanedavies Iain Banks coins a new word: snobbertariat, for those who think the M. in his name means he's lowering himself to write scifi. #EasterCon

Newsletter team: Wilf James, Eddie Cochrane, Jan van't Ent,
and a cast of 'honest and helpful' gophers, volunteers and random passers-by.

THE SENTINEL 7

Saturday Evening 3 April 2010 odysseynews.2010@googlemail.com

BAD SCIENCE, GREAT PRESENTATION

Dr. Ben is an M.D. as well as a journalist. His presentation on *Bad Science* dealt with scientifically debunked non-sense. It was a very hilarious session, which had the audience asking for more.

Ben was scathing about medical scares generated by the media and subsequent fear mongering. He talked at length about the MRSA scare that the media has played up over the past decade. The alleged lethal bacteria cultures on doorknobs and flat, dry surfaces don't exist. Bacteria don't grow on these surfaces, no matter how much the media insists they do.

Misleading reports in the media leave us wondering if the media has anything real to report other than scar stories. Dr. Ben tries to expose fear-mongering by the media, professionals or the medical industry without libelling anyone. He to excels at an informative, witty presentation of his material. Sadly Ben's presentation ran out of time. We want more! *Ilana Grune*

SFX EDITOR COMMENTS ON SF FANS

"I think notions of sci-fi being geeky are oudated. Sci-fi in general, and Doctor Who in particular, are part of the mainstream now....There's a whole generation of people who aren't afraid to openly love sci-fi, and I think Doctor Who has been part of that." (Dave Bradley, Guardian 2nd April)

He better not come to Eastercon, his geekometer would go right off the scale!

STEAMPUNK

Yesterdays steampunk talk was very enjoyable. The argument about whether it should be called dieselpunk was an entertaining digression. The discussion on making modern day equipment equivalents could be made using the finest Victorian engineering was suitably diverting.

Hackney Science Fiction & Fantasy Reading Group. 3rd Tuesday of each month, 6.30 – 7.30pm CLR James Library, 24-30 Dalston Road, E8 3AZ readsciencefiction@hackney.gov.uk

THE PUN DOCTOR

Chris O'Shea to the Doctor Who audience: "Fran Dowd is on the front row, so *you are all Behind The Sofa.*"

THE DAMP AIR CONDITIONER

At 03:25 in the morning
Plop!
Plop!
Action is needed to be taken -
Ah! The waste bin?
PLOP! It was worse! It resonates.
PLOP! PLOP! PLOP! PLOP!
In preparation for evacuation I remember that the hotel is FULL!
Then Reception is called..
An oriental voice answers Yes?
The voice is informed that water is coming into the room.
In the END someone arrives at the room.
"Ah it is the air conditioner! This often happens."
Self: "Is this usual for guests to be woken at this time in the morning by the noise dripping water at this hotel?"
A towel is put in the waste bin to reduce the noise of DROP, DROP, DROP.
BUT, when enough drops have dropped, the noise resumes DROP, DROP, DROP.
Oriental visitor says that it will be looked at today.

This story may be continued in the next issue.
E.D.Buckley

A MAN FROM LOUISIANA

He arrived looking for Peter Redfarn wanting to donate books to the charity collection.
Later when Peter had been located, the Louisiana man was directed in right direction.
In his rush to see Peter he dropped a giant wallet which was kicked across the floor.
The wallet was reunited by your storyteller to its very grateful owner. *E.D.Buckley*

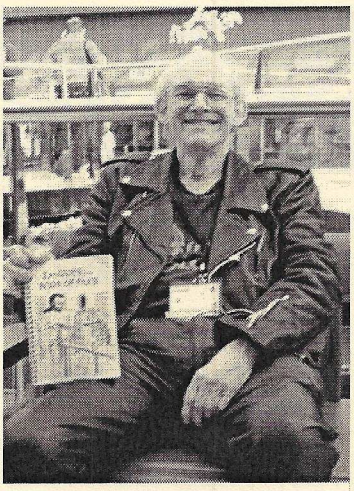
WE MOURN THE PASSING OF ROSIE

The vast quantity of ***Rosie Scrumpy*** ordered for Odyssey has expired at the suppliers. The hotel will now offers One Pint bottles of Magner's cider at £3.50 as an alternative.

KIDS LAB

Lots of junior scientists came along and conducted experiments. The final catapult fire-off was won by Joseph Halse who sent a cotton wool ball the entire length of the Royal C+D. There is a small prize waiting for Joseph in Ops if the Ops team haven't already eaten it. *Elaine Coates*

INSPIRING FAN



Pat Lennon with Filk Book

I came across Pat Lennon, aka K'Rotch of AKFT infamy, a long standing fan who was over the moon as he'd discovered a book dedication in a tome for sale in the dealer's room concerning his corrupting influence back in the day. So if you're curious, check out Zanders' little book of filks, featuring a cartoon of Zander loading in a musical score into a machine and getting a cacophony of notes spewing forth.

IMPRESSIONS ON THE ART ROOM

I had a quick wander round of the space and as normal was impressed with the quality of the offerings. For most of the art sales are either a fixed price or on the bidding system. The prices range from a few pounds to a few hundreds. The styles stretch across the board from dragons and fantasy figures, an assortment of heroines, postcards and book marks, jewellery, masks and collages by way of time travellers....

For those who've not yet made it yet I'd recommend a visit as it's well worth a wander. Who knows you may be tempted to create something for next year. But please don't turn up with a drink in hand as no refreshments are allowed in, and no photography is allowed in the space.

FAN GUESTS OF HONOUR INTERVIEW

Fran "The Sofa" Dowd to husband and fellow Fan GoH, John Dowd: (paraphrasing) "I hadn't realised how much the theme of our relationship has been uncontrolled vomiting."

Fran explained how she came to be the Chair of an all-female Eastercon bid committee before she had attended her first Eastercon. She was asked to join a committee of "Big Scary Women" who worked on the 1995 Worldcon and thought organising an Eastercon would be "a piece of p**s". When the original chair had to step down due to work pressure, Fran was the only woman big enough and scary enough to take on the role.

John Dowd, treasurer of several past conventions and the UK in 2014 bid, pointed out that Finance is one of the least visible yet most important of the committee roles. For the record, Odyssey has a remarkably efficient and competent treasurer in Melanie Davis. If you see her around, why not buy her a drink? (Just remember to keep the receipt!)

Alex Holden

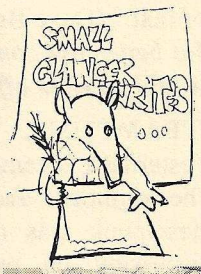
GEORGE HAY LECTURE

This year's George Hay lecture was on Geoengineering. Oliver Morton, a British science writer and editor, brought us an illustrated lecture, centering on the Sublime. The Sublime of what, you may ask? The Sublime of everything, of course.

The growth of technology has given us many options to control our climate. Most of the concepts before the 1960s seem to have involved controlled nuclear explosions. In the 1950s for instance they were trying to get more water available. They thought nothing of triggering a Nuclear Winter in order to affect the climate change they wanted.

Recently, blocking out the sun has been considered, to limit the green-house effect, but doing it with a destructive explosion is just not the way to go anymore. Nukes are out, artificially triggered clouds are in. I don't pretend to know how it's done, but the result is a lot more clouds, which block out the sun, so the oceans don't warm up as much. If the oceans remain at a lower temperature, less energy will escape from the Earth's surface. The last option is to use sulfur oxides, like a vulcano spitting plumes, which blocks out the Sun very well. Talk to the people of Pompeii about that. The modern 21st century way of dispersing the sulfur would be to throw planes up high at the edge of the atmosphere, to reduce the amount of sunlight. That's the concept I walked away from the lecture with. Where the sublime came into this, just didn't come across.

Ilana Grune



Newsletter team: Wilf James, Eddie Cochrane, Jan van't Ent,
and a cast of 'honest and helpful' gophers, volunteers and random passers-by.

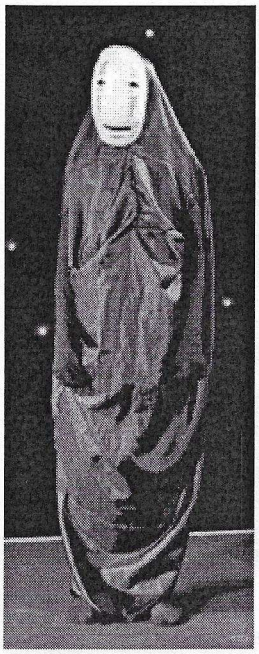
THE SENTINEL

Masquerade Edition Saturday 3/Sunday 4 April 2010 odysseynews.2010@googlemail.

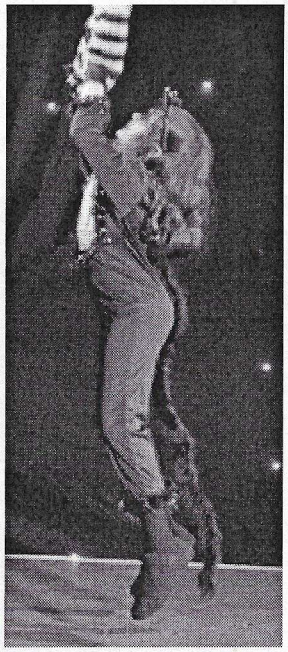
THE ODYSSEY 2010 MASQUERADE AND CABARET

MC'd by Persephone Hazard, judged by Judith Proctor, Teddy, and Alison Page

Winners: Victorian Torchwood
Second Prize: Diictodon Hero Digro Danger



Joseph Halse - No Face, from *Spirited Away*



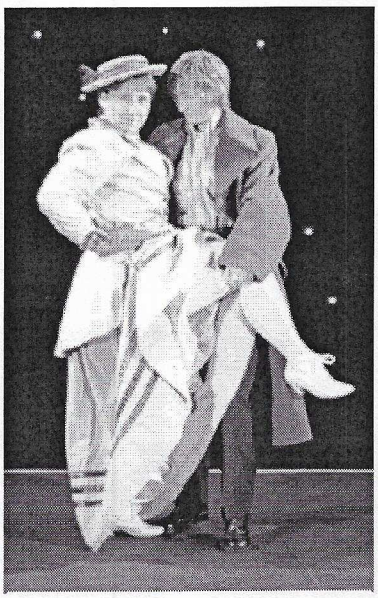
Jodie Payne - Everyone wants to be a cat

Simon & Sabine Furlong - The Reduced 6th Doctor - "Don't press that invitingly blinking red button!"

Peter Westhead - Ambush

Cuileann - Diictodon Hero Digro Danger - Diictodonts from an alternative reality in which the Cynodonts didn't die at the end of the Permian Era (you know, pre-Triassic, so pre-dinosaurs) the dominant lizards after evolving for 170 million years from the Permian are now exploring space

Karen Furlong - Sarah Jane Smith, the Victorian Years - "Accessorize!"

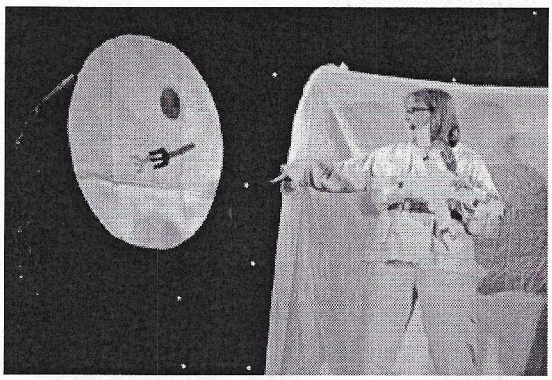


Ranger Hilary & Nicky - Victorian Torchwood - or how Captain Jack was recruited

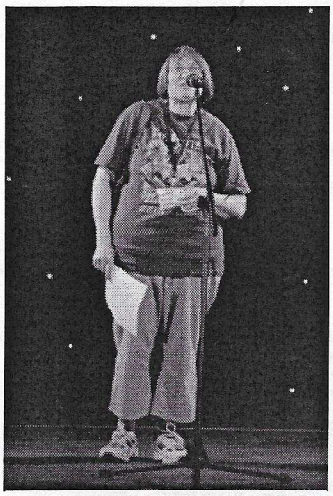
Peter & Kathy Westhead - Sara Ophelia & Blue Cloak - the beginning of an inter-species diplomatic service

THE ODYSSEY 2010 CABARET

all photography by Bo Hansen



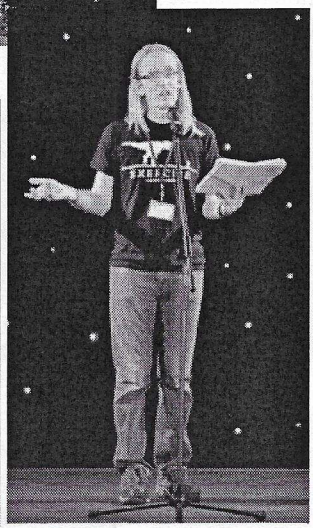
Reduced Star Wars Company



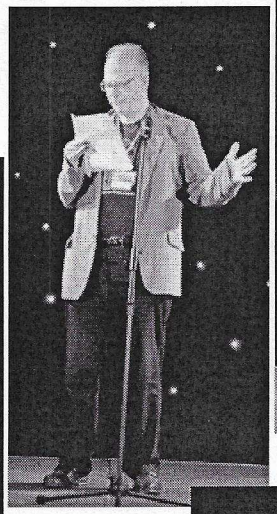
Jessica Yates

Voldemort & Rincewind - Nova, Misha

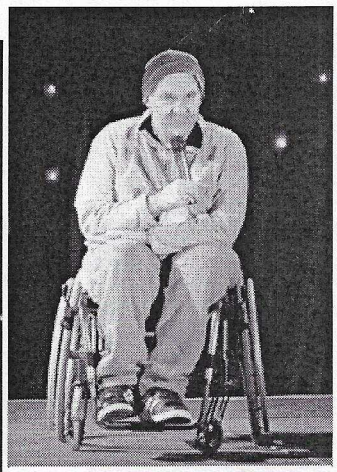
Zappo & Egghunter



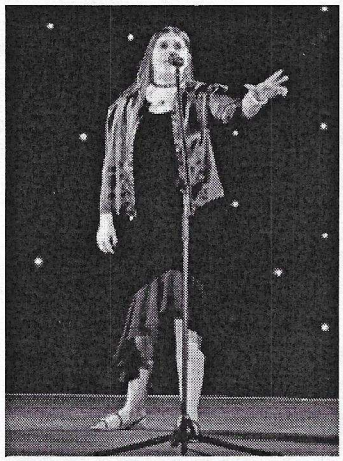
Palfrey



Peter Redburn



Astral Gypsy - superhero

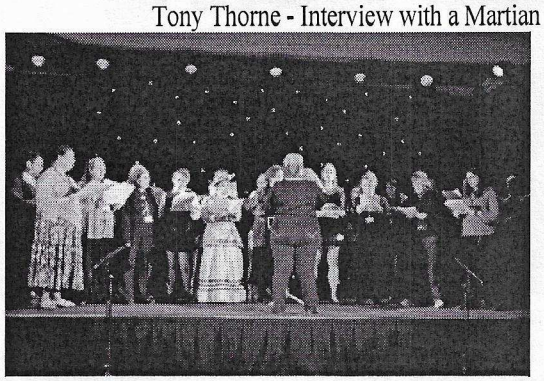


Blazing Skies - With Me

Tony Thorne - Interview with a Martian

Abi - Big Spender

Jess - Chivas Regal



Odyssey Choral Workshop

THE SENTINEL 8

Sunday morning 4 April 2010 odysseynews.2010@googlemail.com

DOCTOR WHO - NO SPOILERS

The Commonwealth Room was filled out to see the new Doctor Who, and we were treated to a stonker. We ooh'ed, we aah'ed, we laughed and cheered. Watching a show like this among fellow fans is the true high definition experience.

The first episode of a new Doctor is always a special one. As the whole regeneration concept has evolved we are not only seeing the Doctor coming to terms with his new body, his new being, we are also seeing the actor come to terms with playing and making his own an iconic role. Within a surprisingly short time I felt that Matt Smith had achieved that. He was the Doctor, and he was here to save us.

Without giving away plot details this episode gave us what we want from the Doctor, excitement, strangeness, humour, menace, time travel, sauciness, silliness, and saving the day. Were there small things to quibble over? Well it wouldn't be Doctor Who if there weren't, but they don't matter. This was a great start, I want to see it again, and I can't wait to see the next episode. This was not just the Doctor Who we expect, but the Doctor Who we wish for. The alien amongst the familiar, a Doctor to believe in, and a companion to cheer for.

DR. WHO QUOTES HEARD IN THE ATRIUM

"When did they sign Harry Potter to play the Doctor?"

"I miss David Tennant. At least he wasn't a fetus."

"I swear, if he Tweeted about that redhead one more time…"

"I missed it. Someone tell me spoilers so I can spread them around!"

"It could have been worse. The Doctor could have been American."

ODYSSEY-BY-THE-NUMBERS

By Chris Garcia

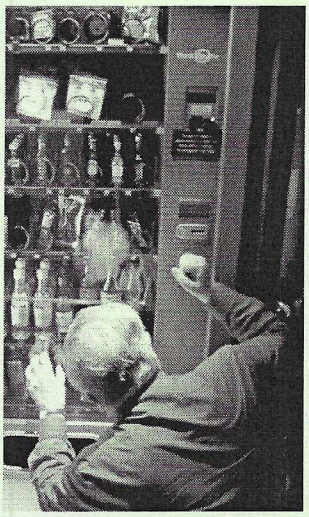
Number of Registered things – **1376**

Number of pounds raised by The League of Fan Funds for a signed copy of the CorFlu 2010 Fanthology – **100**

Number of people wandering the Atrium last night during Dr. Who- **4**

Number of copies of 2000 AD ruined by my early morning coffee spill – **3**

Number of Bondage/BDSM panels I've attended – **0**, but the League of Fan Funds Auction had some scary moments…



Although the hotel vending machines contain loot such as bow-ties, spirits, and condoms (Shoot, a fella' could have a pretty good weekend in Vegas with all that stuff), we do not recommend you try to break into them unless your DEX is 16 or above.

HUGO NOMINEES ANNOUNCED LIVE

The nominees for this year's Hugo Awards, to be awarded at WorldCon in Melbourne, Australia this August, will be announced at a ceremony in the Connaught room. Be among the first people in the world to know which novels, stories, artists, writers and others competing for the top prize in the Kingdom of Science.

THE CLARKE AWARDS… NOT!

As is traditional, the Not The Clarke Awards panel runs from 2 to 3:30 in Connaught. Moderated by the wickedly brilliant Claire Brialey, come hear the pointy opinions of Graham "Locus" Sleight, Tony "Too Tough" Cullen, Edward "The

WEAPONS FONDLING

Steve K. apologises for running out of time in the "Swordplay for Writers" talk, and will be available in Room 18 at 11am and 7pm on Sunday for weapons fondling. [*We were supposed to insert a joke here, but we take weapons fondling very seriously on the newsletter team*]. Steve can also be reached at steve@whitecrow.demon.co.uk

MASQUERADE WINNERS

1st Prize - Ranger Hilary with Victorian Torchword
2nd Prize - Quillion with Diictodon Hero Digro Danger
3rd Prize - Joseph Halse with No face, from Spirited Away
Best Doctor Who - Simon Furlong
Best Cat - Jodie Payne

SHORT ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Milford Writers Group, past and present, meeting 3pm Sunday in the Polo Bar.

TWP Tea Party will be in room 4019 Sun 5pm.

Would Neil Bond and Jane Frank please go to Ops to collect lost property.

Henley's is not a con bar!

Happy Birthday to Linda Stratmann, who we understand has reached an indeterminate age.

WRITERS AND THE WEB

Are you an aspiring writer? Have you just published, or do you have a fanbase? Would you like to cultivate one? This session gave lots of pros and cons on promoting yourself and your work on the web.

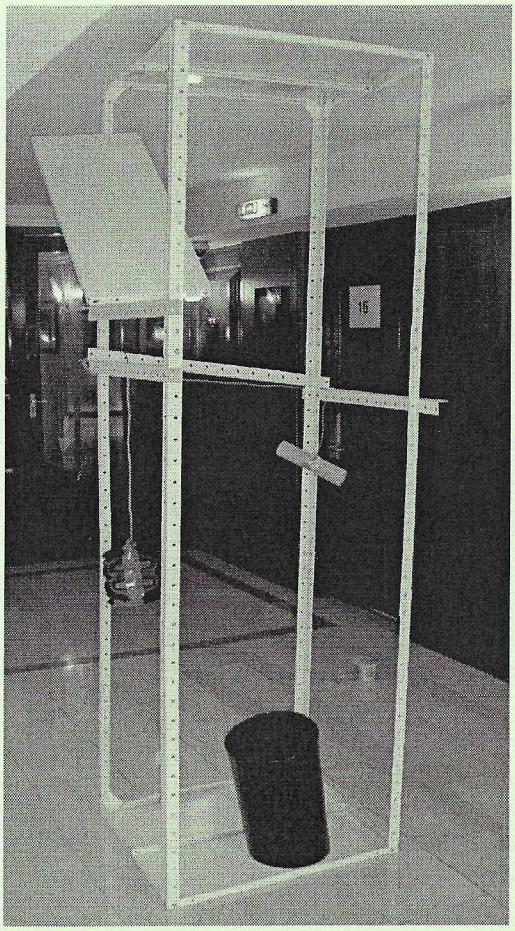
Joe Abercrombie and Mark Charan were total opposites on this subject. Joe says, don't do too much work on it, it will swallow you up. Internet-addicts beware! Mark on the other hand says it's a great vehicle and you can pump up sales but you know what you're doing, otherwise you'll be wasting your time; and time is what a writer needs to use to write , not to surf the web.

John Meaney says, you might want to get away from the computer after hours of writing are done in a day and go get some excercise. He warns that most writers need to juggle their time sensibly anyway, as most of us still have a day-job.

So what works? Well, says Joe, pick your level of commitment and maintain it. Blog each day, each week, or three times a year, but be consistant about it. Fans will find you, if you have a consistent presence. Whether they will buy more books is up to them, but you and they will have a good time anyway.

REDEMPTION PR1 AVAILABLE

Any members of Redemption '11 can pick up their copy of Progress Report 1 from the Redemption '11 con table just outside the Dealers' Room. If you are not a member, why not pop along to the con table anyway and join now!



Mysterious structure spotted outside Rooms 17 -19. Information on the mysterious rectangular structure, which appeared with a 'groaning wheezing sound' at the rear entrance lobby and contains a subtly shifted perspective, invited.

Newsletter team: Wilf James, Eddie Cochrane, Jan van't Ent,
and a cast of 'honest and helpful' gophers, volunteers and random passers-by.

THE SENTINEL 9

SundayAfternoon 4 April 2010 odysseynews.2010@googlemail.com

WE MADE A BOO BOO!

The news letter organiser (me, Wilf) apologises for the way the following items appeared in issue 8 of SENTINEL. The items should have appeared as follows:-

THE CLARKE AWARDS... NOT!

As is traditional, the Not The Clarke Awards panel runs from 2:00 to 3:30 in Connaught. Moderated by the wickedly brilliant Claire Brialey, come hear the pointy opinions of Graham "Locus" Sleight, Tony "Too Tough" Cullen, Edward "The Opinionated" James and Ruth "Nickname Pending" O'Reilly as they dissect and discuss the shortlist for the UK's premiere prize for science fiction literature.

HUGO NOMINEES ANNOUNCED LIVE

The nominees for this year's Hugo Awards, to be awarded at WorldCon in Melbourne, Australia this August, will be announced at a ceremony in the Connaught room. Be among the first people in the world to know which novels, stories, artists, writers and others competing for the top prize in the Kingdom of Science Fiction. Nominees may well be on hand to accept the good news!

AN ALIEN PLANT

Some of you may have noticed some very strange vegetation in this hotel. It could have come from an alien source because it does not resemble any known plant on Earth. It could be called the *Quadripedal Bulbous Leather Palm Tree*. Fans with an extensive knowledge of botany or herbology may know what its proper Linnéan name should be.

DREDDED DEATH

John Hicklenton, the well known graphic artist for the *Judge Dredd, Nemesis the Warlock* and other *2000AD* comics, ended his life at the Dignitas Clinic in Switzerland on March 19. He was 42. John, or Johnny as he was known, had been suffering from multiple sclerosis for may years.

The Sentinel Newsletter team has been asked to repeat this news for those who have been out of circulation for one reason or another during the past month.

FAN FUNDS

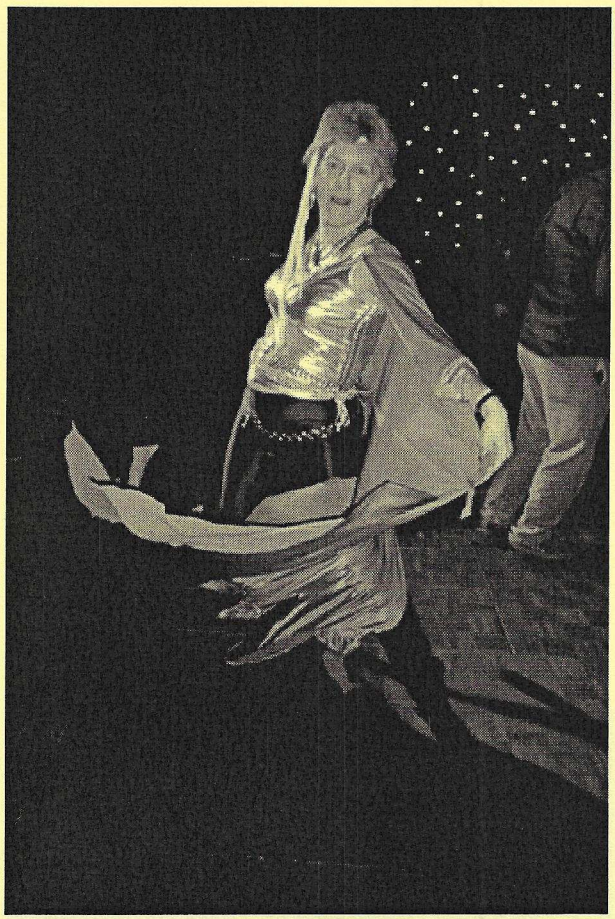
Saturday night's League of Fan Funds auction raised a fantastic £730: many thanks to all who came along, helped out, auctioned and, particularly, paid lots of money for all the items that people had donated. Of particular note was a copy of the Corful Cobalt Fanthology, signed by many of the writers, which want for a wonderful £100.

The money raised will be split between GUFF and TAFF. Remember that the GUFF voting closes at midnight tomorrow, and try not to remember the sight of one of the candidates in a velvet corset! *Flick*

An excellent Mediaeval Combat and Rapier

COACH TRIP TO SEE EXCEL SITE

A reminder to all those interested in the coach trip to the proposed site of the London 2014 bid on Monday, to sign up at the London 2014 desk in the Dealers Room by close today (Sunday). If you miss the sign up, then please find Stephen Cooper (possibly in the bar or at the Hugo nominations).



TIME FROZEN?
From Saturday nights |disco.
We understand from Twitter that Time was Warped.
Photo by Chad Dixon

WHISKY AND FEAR

During a well-attended discussion between Ken Macleod and Iain Banks it was revealed that a combination of whisky and fear were the best antidotes to procrastination. Guilt over "not over having a real job" and looming deadlines are also good motivators, preventing our authors from continually rearranging home furniture and surfing the web.
The authors agreed too much research can never be justified being written into the story, and that it's wonderful when holidays in Australia and the Bahamas can be written off against tax.

DEFACE THE MUSIC QUIZ

The results of this morning's quiz are:

Oops, I Did It Again	36
Random	32
Accidentals	31
The Audience	40

Congratulations go to Gaspode and his team.

DEFACE THE MUSIC QUIZEASTER-CON BID SESSION

Illustrious 2011 was chosen as next year's Eastercon unanimously. Chaired by Nik Whitehead, it will be held at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole next to the NEC. The hotel hosted the 2008 Discworld Con. Guests of Honour are David Weber, Peter F. Hamilton, David A. Hardy and Vince Docherty.
Head of programming is Dave Mansfield. Themes will be *Military SF* and *SF Through the Ages*. There will be a costume Admiralty Ball and no masquerade. There will be a dance class beforehand.
Membership rates for Illustrious (until 1st May) are: £50 adult, £25 young persons and unwaged, £15 junior and £1 for infants and apocryphals. www.illustrious.org.uk

Olympus 2012 will be the following year's Eastercon - here at the Radisson. Several of the 2008 and 2010 Eastercon organisers will be reprising their roles. Two guests have been announced so far: *Paul Cornell and George R.R. Martin.*

Steve Rogerson told us that the Olympus programme will be like Orbital's but even better. There will be strong literary, fan, science and media streams. Hotel room rates are staying the same as they were in 2008 and 2010.

Membership for Olympus (if you join at Odyssey) are: £40 full adult, £35 unwaged, £20 supporting, £20 junior, £5 child, £1 infant and apocryphal, and £1.42 for Beeblebears.
www.olympus2012.org

Both future conventions are running sign-up desks in the hotel lobby.
There will be a programme brainstorming session on Monday at 11am in room 40. Go along to this if you have any ideas for things you'd like to see at future Eastercons.

DINNER TICKETS FOUND!

Will the owners of two dinner tickets for tonight (Sunday) that have been found please queue up at Ops to state where they have lost them. Those who guess the right location will eat well tonight.

Newsletter team: Wilf James, Eddie Cochrane, Jan van't Ent,
and a cast of 'honest and helpful' gophers, volunteers and random passers-by.

THE SENTINEL 10

Sunday Evening 4 April 2010 odysseynews.2010@googlemail.com

BSFA AWARDS

Wittily compèred by Ian Watson & Donna Scott, joking about other organizations using the initials BSFA, but getting back to business, here are the results:-

Best non-fiction presented by Mike Carey, won by Nick Lowe for the 'Mutant Popcorn' film review column in *Interzone*.

Best artwork presented by Liz Williams, won by Stephan Martinière for the cover of *Desolation Road* – accepted by Jim Burns on his behalf.

Best short fiction presented by Alastair Reynolds, won by Ian Watson & Roberto Quaglia for 'The Beloved Time of Their Lives'. (photo right)

Best novel presented by Iain M. Banks, won by China Miéville for *The City & The City* – accepted by Julie Crisp on his behalf – China had prepared an acceptance speech in advance, mentioning being "stuck in a time paradox, feeling grateful and honoured."

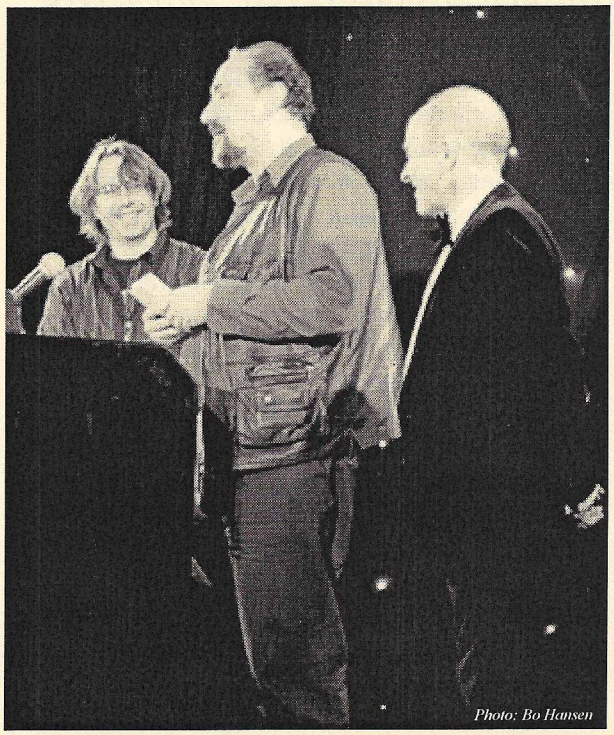


Photo: Bo Hansen

UNTRANSLATED EUROPEAN SF

There will be an on-line adjunct to the *Untranslated European SF novels* panel, with suggestions of SF classics from a dozen European fans and writers from half a dozen European countries that as yet have not been translated into English. See www.concatenation.org towards the end of April.

TO ACT OR NOT TO ACT

The acting workshop for non-actors was fantastic, attended by a small amount of people, but right for the room it was in (41). Ruby, the acting tutor, rocked! Alex, a happy participant commented upon leaving: "This was the best thing I did all weekend!"

MY ONLY COAT

Missing: Long black hooded microfiber raincoat, left in the Radisson (Ladies, Main Programming, Newbury, Internet room?) Friday night. The hood & cuffs are lined in beige, long beige knit gloves & house keys in right pocket, metal kazoo, mini-chocolate Easter Eggs also in a pocket. This is the only coat I brought on this trip & needed. Please return to Ops, or the filk tables in the right rear of the Dealers' Room, Radisson Concierge or room 529 next door at the Marriott. *Kathy Sands*

FUSION FASHION

Fusion Power and the Joint European Torus, a seminar on where the development of Fusion Power currently stands, half-filled Commonwealth with fusion enthusiasts. Anthony Webster talked about the new bigger, badder, faster, hotter, colder ITER reactor that is under construction at the moment, with an estimated startup of 2018. ITER is an almost full-sized development reactor, which will allow development of the materials and experience necessary for commercial applications of power generation. Anthony waxed lyrical about lots of cool facts like using the Lithium metal inside the reactor to generate the Tritium needed for the reaction with Deuterium, using the neutron emitted from the formation of Helium. For those not in the know: Helium is the end product of the fusion reaction, so that's pretty much what we were wanting from the ITER; oh, and lots of heat, which gets turned into lots of power. Yay, ITER!

Ilana

BOOK SWAP

If anyone received a copy of *Temeraire* by Naomi Novik in their goodie bag and would be willing to exchange it for a copy of either Tau Zero by Poul Anderson or Ringworld by Larry Niven, please come to Ops. *Thanks, Kat*

COME AND SEE

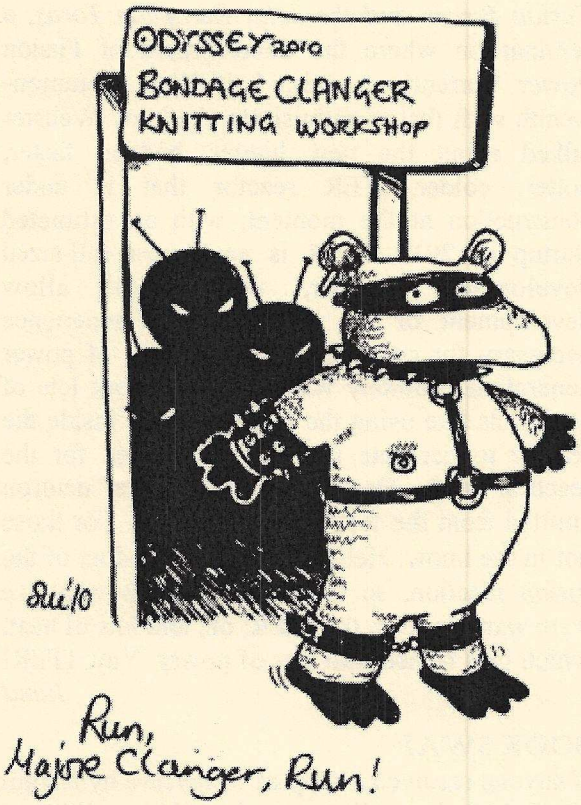
Brian Ameringen of Porcupine Books is pleased to announce that he has (finally) put all the books he brought to the Convention on display in the Dealers' Room...

WORLD HORROR CON - BRIGHTON

The choice of a Victorian hotel was inspired and really gave an atmosphere to the event. There was a clear focus on literary horror and the twin-track programme was well attended.

Neil Gaiman made a surprise visit, and did a Q&A session as well a signing session, but there was ample time and opportunity to chat with him and the dozens of other authors, who were all very pleasant and approachable. The event attracts a heavy professional element and there was a pitching session on the Thursday, which seemed very popular. The signing session allowed many people to interact with authors, and James Herbert proved hugely popular, although Maura McHugh's *Women in Horror* panel was crammed, and there were more women in attendance than men.

Overall, there were many new fans, aspiring writers and professionals who, with the various parties, launches and free bars, contributed to making a really fun and exciting weekend.



MYSTERIOUS OBJECT WITH SHIFTING DIMENSIONS IDENTIFIED

The strange rectangular object sighted in the rear entrance lobby has been identified as 'The dimensional parameters' for the *Beyond Cyberdrome 3D* event (3pm Monday). We think they mean 'The pitch'.

Robots capable of negotiating all 3 dimensions welcome.

ITEMS FOUND

If any of the following items belong to you, please go to Ops to reclaim them (possibly demonstrating ownership through the medium of interpretive dance).

- Coat with **return train ticket to Wolverhampton** in pocket.
- Oyster card from West Norwood.
- Blue dinosaur.
- Dolphin.
- Camera containing photos of car park (?!)

IN A GRAND FENWICKY WAY

Rumour around the convention is that a group of fans from The Hague, the Netherlands, have taken up the gauntlet that London 2014 has thrown down this weekend, when they announced they were as yet unopposed. This group has been rumoured to have stated that the city of Madurodam will be running against them for a Worldcon bid for 2014. Madurodam is known to be a rather small but compact place, which packs an awful lot of Dutch national cultural sites (including the Queen's palace and the Parliament building) as well as excellent transportation and hotel accommodation. In fact, this reporter was told it also sports a real live airport on site, which has the only Concorde still in service in the world.

The odd thing is that the whole site is at 1/25th scale, but the organisers (relatively small people themselves, we have heard) have a marvellous solution to this problem. They will shrink each member of the convention to 1/25th of normal size, using their patent pending Shrink-O-matic ray. We are assured they will have the patent pending Expand-O-matic in-service by the start of the convention. Reportedly, for an extra fee (all donations to WSFS) they are willing to selectively overcompensate certain features upon request of the convention member, upon resizing before leaving the convention. This sounds almost too good to be true! Where can I sign up?

Newsletter team: Wilf James, Eddie Cochrane, Jan van't Ent,
and a cast of 'honest and helpful' gophers, volunteers and random passers-by.

THE SENTINEL 11

Monday Morning 5 April 2010 odysseynews.2010@googlemail.com

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ROG!

Your newsletter team is pleased to report that it is Rog Peyton's birtday today.

Mitch Benn in full flow by Bo Hansen

MITCH BENN ROCKS

Introduced by Paul Cornell as 'one of us', Mitch Benn gave us a what he described himself as a 'homecoming gig' last night. Starting off his set with *Be My Doctor Who Girl*, and following it with favourites such as his old signature song *Crap Shag*, through for the first time ever, he sang the first verse in a Dalek voice (it didn't matter that you couldn't make our the lyrics, you were too busy laughing) *I Want to be Your Dungeon Master*, the gloriously filthy *Auto-Erotic Asphyxiation* though to the worlds shortest Prog. Rock concept album *The Hungry Caterpillar*. In between the songs we got everything from a hilarious rant against James Blunt, *Total Recall* and *Goldfinger* baby gags, and the observation that if the end of the world happens it'll be down to The Doctor, as Torchwood will be too busy fingering each other behind the bike shed. Mitch's encore was *Perfect Day* singing it with all the voices in the BBC version, A genius performance, it capped off a perfect gig.

Afterwards there was a gratifyingly large number of people queuing to buy signed copies of his CD, I hope he brought enough. But if you didn't get the chance to buy one then, you can buy Mitch's CDs via his web site www.mitchbenn.com

ODYSSEY-BY-THE-NUMBERS

Number of Warm Bodies Registered for the Con – 1301

Registered members including Beeblebears and the shambling Zombie horde – 1397

Black Holes formed in Elevators following Doctor Who ending – 7

times the Japanese flag has been pushed in the Hotel's Revolving Door – 142,930

Men Entered – 2

Men Left – 1

Bondage/BDSM panels I've attended – 0, but I was knitting a ball gag earlier…

By ***Chris Garcia***, who had to leave Sunday evening in high spirits after being twice Hugo-nominated; the Sentinel is greatly appreciative of having a Hugo-nominated writer in their midstv

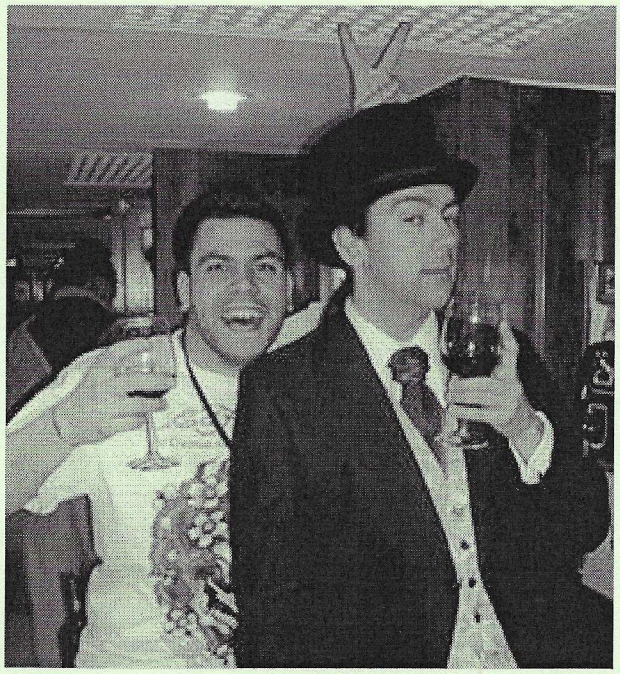
Chris Garcia - a portrait by Bo Hansen

'MY ONLY COAT' FOUND!

Your editor was told by Ops that the Long black microfibre raincoat left in the Ladies has been returned to its owner. Thanks go to whoever found it and took it to Ops.

ANOTHER HAPPY REUNION

There were emotional scenes earlier this evening when a hip flask was reunited with its lost Tobes. "'I only put him down for a moment,' said the hip flask, 'and suddenly he was gone. He isn't exactly valuable, but he was full of calvados at the time.'" *Steve Green*



AN ODD COUPLE

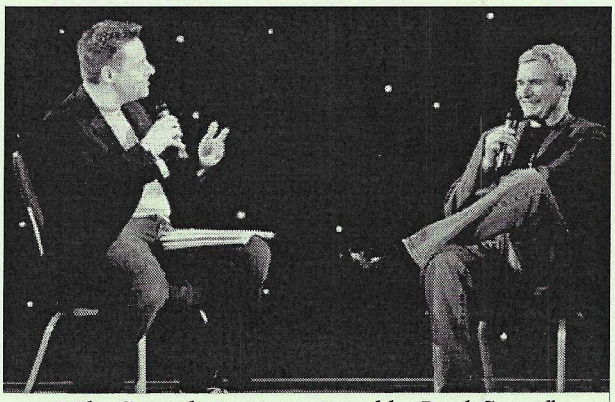
I Just liked this picture by Sabremeister

AN ODD RESTAURANT?

Your peripatetic editor was at the very well recommended Hong Kong restaurant last night. The Chinese meal that was provided and eaten was excellent. Your editor was intrigued to note that the restaurant's Chinese staff were eating take-away pizzas at a corner table. *Wilf*

K'NEX FOR A FUTURE CON!

Alex MC (AlexMcLintock) has a large amount of K'Nex available which he would love to donate to a future convention for the children's play area. Please contact AlexMC or go to the ZZ9 table to collect two suitcases of K'Nex for your future convention. *AlexMC*



Mike Carey being interviewed by Paul Cornell

T-SHIRTS & RAFFLE TICKETS

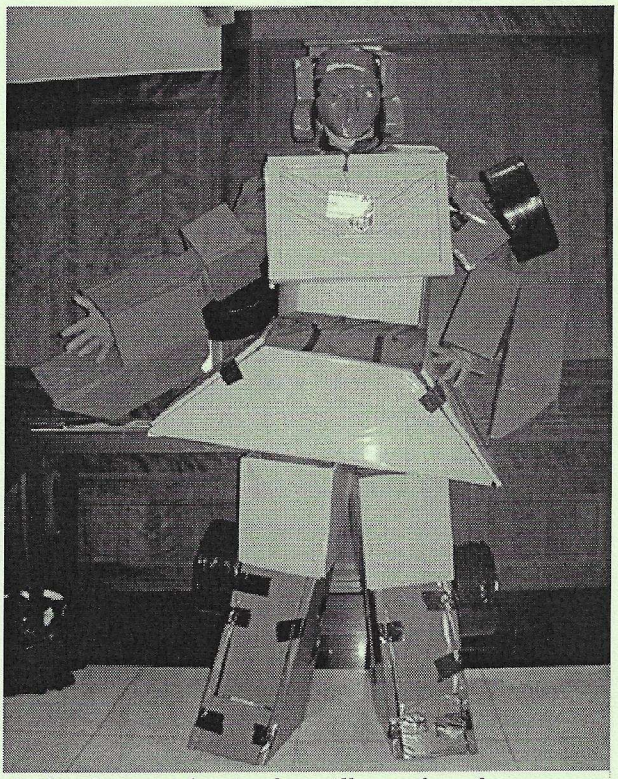
These will be available for a while in the Royal B room.

Shop now before the stock runs out.

Three steampunk heros by Wilf

BATH ROAD AND THE RADISSON

Going from the hotel at Bath Road 140, to the restaurant at number 300, you'd expect a short walk, then the road suddenly extends way past number 800, but before you realize you may be lost, you do arrive - in hindsight realizing the Radisson Non-Euclidean corridors must have infected the surroundings after warping around for quite a few years.



Is this the sort of entity that will transform future cons or is it at a cardboard replica? Picture by Davidu

HUGO NOMINEES

Due to shortage of space the list of Hugo nominees won't be printed here but will be found at www.aussiecon4.org.au

Newsletter team: Wilf James, Eddie Cochrane, Jan van't Ent,
and a cast of 'honest and helpful' gophers, volunteers and random passers-by.

THE SENTINEL 12

Monday Afternoon 5 April 2010 odysseynews.2010@googlemail.com

HARRY POTTER & THE HALF-CUT PRINCE

The audience crowding the Main Hall was not disappointed by Ian Sorenson's latest musical, a tribute to the world of Hogwarts. The cast included versions of Hermione, Draco, McGonagall, Snape, Dumbledore, some dancing Dementors, plus other incarnations of Alan Rickman.

To avoid spoiling the pleasure of those who might see it some other time, I'll just mention a few features. The big screen showed not only the scene locations, but also the lyrics set to well-known tunes which the audience enjoyed singing. Minerva McGonagall's opening recitation, as the audience recognized, was in the style of the poet and tragedian McGonagall. There were loads of delicious puns and sight-gags, and when Ian as Snape swore 'By Grabthar's Hammer', there was large applause. *Jessica Yates*

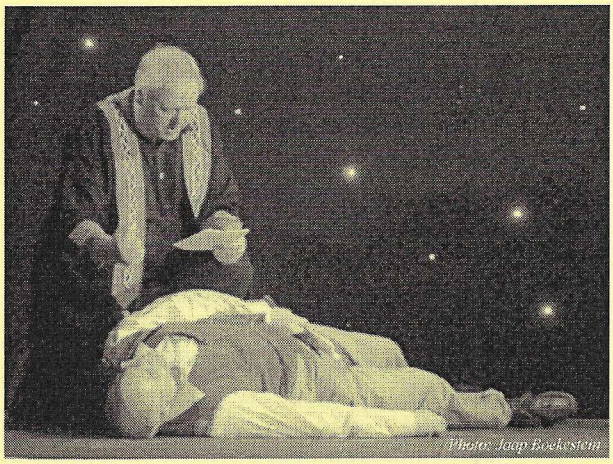


Photo: Jaap Boekestein

DEFACE THE MUSIC V: THE RESULTS

We did not have time to announce the results from Sunday morning's *SF Music Quiz*. The points scored by the three teams were:

'Oops I did it again'	36
'Random'	32
'Accidents'	31
(Audience	40!)

Congratulations to team captain Gaspode and team members Neil, Mike, and Lemming Man. Thanks to everyone who came along and joined in. We look forward to seeing you all at *Satellite 3* in Glasgow.

Christine and Michael Davidson

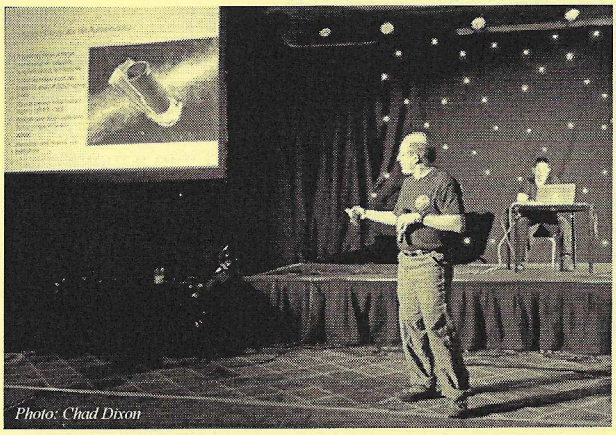


Photo: Chad Dixon

IT'S A WONDERFUL UNIVERSE

Dave Clements gave a super brief run down of where/what/who/how of the Herschel space telescope (don't talk about the Planck telescope!). Unfortunately, he repeatedly talked about the embargo on talking about pretty much all the new and interesting stuff until mid May, when the Herschel community will make a series of announcements. So we were left with a very modest amount of images and data from the December 2009 release.

Dave made it very clear that space-based infra-red astronomy is the only way to look inside the huge dust clouds that are involved with the birth of stars, or to look inside the more dusty corners (more like smoke than dust really) of the galaxies. So far he has not been able to confirm the existence of 'the great white handkerchief', or 'the cleaner at the end of time'. But stay tuned until mid May!

MEMORABLE QUOTE

"Chick lit is not feminist, it just has women in it!" at the *What makes a Feminist Heroine* session on Sunday afternoon, which did not settle the original question.

PHLOSQUE PRESENTATION

Phlosque award winner is Jackie Burns with 'Celtic Spaceship'.

The award was be presented by two cutely dressed children, to be accepted by Susan Peak for absent Jackie Burns, next to the steampunk sculpture in the atrium after the closing ceremony.

HALL COSTUME WINNER

Maredvdd ap Gwylim (Ed Boreham)
2nd: Anderson Sisters
3rd: Stainless Steel Fox

RASFF

The Winged Victory of Samothrace near the artrium has been turned into a memorial shrine for rec.arts.sf.fandom. All RASFFers invited to pay their respects. Offerings of chocolate or cats optional.

ASPIRATIONS

The BBC Writer's Room is the place for aspiring tv, film, radio and stage writers, so sayeth Piers Beckly. "We will read anything, so send us your unsolicited scripts!" he repeated a few times, and we believe him. They maintain a team of freelance writers to look at each and every script that comes in, barring a few exceptions, such as a script that's been sent in before, or anything over 130 pages.

We don't want to make their freelance readers cry. Actually these readers aren't just Joe Blogs trying to make a buck; these are script writers who have at least five years of experience.

Piers explained the methods, which can be found along with loads of other information at the BBC Writer's Room website. Their function is to help new writers get into the business. It sounds better and better, really! But don't be fooled, you first have to write your great script, then send in your great script. And while you wait for a response you should go on to write your next great script."

Do's. Active, compelling main characters, and a visceral reaction from the reader, are musts!

Don'ts. Don't rehash old concepts, such as dead cop comes back from the dead to set up his own CSI unit, unless you are absolutely amazingly different (*Life On Mars* as a spin on the old time-travel concept - granted it took 40 rewrites and 7 years to turn 'let's do a time-travel show' into 'Year 2000 cop wakes up in the 70s and he knows it!').

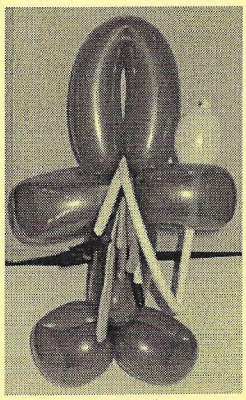
Advised reading: *Adventures in the Screen trade* by William Goldman. *Ilana*

WORKSHOPPING

The Calligraphy workshop on Sunday 4pm was so popular it burst out of room 18, and was very swiftly relocated to Newbury 1, by Judith Proctor. There were 35+ people attending and even the people running the session were amazed. "We expected 5 people to show up!"

Because the Calligraphy was moved out of 18, the Costume workshop on how to adapt patterns, run by Teddy, was upgraded from 19 to 18, as he also had many more people than the convention expected. By the end of the excellent session the room was crammed full and people were spilling over into the hallway, with the door open, trying to see and listen.

The common theme here is, these crafting workshops are far more popular than anyone expected! Next year take note!



From the balloon workshop

WE'VE DRUNK THE HOTEL OUT OF SPARKLING WATER

The hotel is trying to get a supply of soda water up to the Atrium bar. They have run out of the small bottles but they should be able to get something up there, hopefully at less than the Polo bar prices.

So we have drunk the hotel out of Old Rosie, soda water, and Worcester sauce. Must try harder. *Gaspode*

OVERQUOTED

Paul Cornell at the Mike Carey GoH interview (taking questions):

"Lady over there,
... no - gentleman over here,
... and you've got a beard as well!"

GUARDIAN! GUARDIAN!

If anyone has a copy of the Saturday *Guardian* to spare, SMS is desperately looking for one, after the Marriott was only able to deliver *The Times* and Sky television.

STOP PRESS—PROGRAM CHANGE

Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog will be reshown with the commentary after *Galaxy Quest* in Royal C+D.

Newsletter team: Wilf James, Eddie Cochrane, Jan van't Ent,
and a cast of 'honest and helpful' gophers, volunteers and random passers-by.

THE SENTINEL 13

Monday Evening 5 April 2010 odysseynews.2010@googlemail.com

WRITING FOR AUDIO, ON SUNDAY EVENING.

Audio story telling is popular in the UK, as witnessed by the many radio plays routinely brought to the public, particularly by Radio 4 and Radio 7. Philip Palmer, TV and radio writer, says, "Radio 7 has a good reason for existing, as Radio 4 doesn't have time for SF, as it concentrates predominantly on mainstream, ignoring the sub-genres. BBC radio still have a public service ethos, they do it for the love of it. They are the good guys, but they could love radio more." The love would preferably be expressed by larger budgets, of course. "Audio is done on a shoestring budget and it is perfect for internet, but the BBC doesn't trust that yet. Ideally we would want all past audio plays available for download." Jack Bowman, of Wireless, an independent audio production company, comments, "If you put audio out on the net the right way, it really works. Don't forget, Radio is the bread and butter of the acting community here in the UK, and a great writing resource." So writers who want to get into audio drama should definitely get into the genre.

Paul Cornell is involved with the Doctor Who audios, and James Swallow is involved with Big Finish. Big Finish produces tie-in audio, most notably Blake's 7, Stargate and Highlander.

"What you need for a good radio story is great visuals, great drama, and great pace," says James. "With the larger budget from Big Finish we can use cracking sound design, which can illustrate believably cool like planets exploding, London going up in smoke and the world being overrun by aliens. One could probably even do shagging very well on radio, if the actors give it a good go."

One question we all wanted to know was: are audio producing companies open to new writers and new scripts. "Wireless has an open scripts policy," says James. "We will consider anything, we support all new talent at Wireless." Philip informs us that the BBC is very receptive to new writers, even if their pitching process is so convoluted that Philip still doesn't know how it works, as he falls asleep any time it is explained to him. "SF writers and novellists generally are welcome in the medium."

James Bowman adds, "If you want to write for audio, tell a great story."

DESIGNING FANNISH CURRENCY

Despite a few technical hitches this talk by Fan Guest of Honour John Dowd was very informative. It was striking how almost all the examples of con money relied on trust. The only occasion any effort was made to stop the possibility of forgery was with the Worldcon. Another important point in creating desirable currency was its souvenir appeal, with many fans collecting their tokens as souvenir, an important consideration on the budgeting front.

ONE MINUTE PAST EIGHT: A SUNDAY ODYSSEY

This filmed version of the convention tribute to the Space Odyssey movies *2001* and *2010*, was produced by David Wake, who took the role of Bowman. I will avoid spoiling future con-goers' pleasure, as this movie is well worth bringing at future conventions.

The first hour was a broad scene-by-scene pastiche of *2001: A Space Odyssey*, so well-known that the laughs came easily and often. I especially liked the allusions to other Kubrick movies, e.g. the appearance of a droog from *A Clockwork Orange*.

At the moment when Leonard Rossiter was due on as a Russian, he came on as Reggie Perrin as well! Dr. Strangelove appeared later.

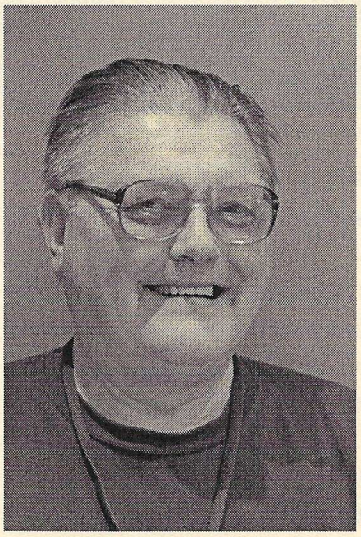
Congratulations to the Choir who sang a wordless chorale in the style of Ligeti, and to the CGI team who created the Ultimate Trip.

The second installment of 40 minutes parodied *2010* in a more sophisticated way. The author tackled a domestic dispute at Heywood Floyd's home in several dramatic styles, recalling Ionescu's Theatre of the Absurd and Brecht's alienation technique. At the climax, the choir performed *Thus Spake Zarathustra* very well. In both movies, characters in tubby costumes circulated as the sun and the planets - a great 'poor theatre' concept! The credits displayed an exceptionally large cast of fans, many still active in fandom today. Well done - this movie deserves to run and run.

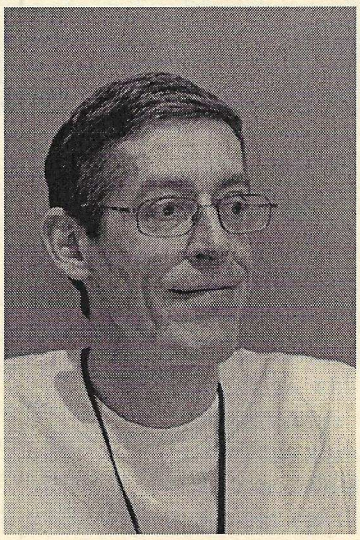
Jessica Yates

I've missed the first 14 billion years so what does it matter anyway. - John Dowd

THIS NEWSLETTER HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO YOU BY...

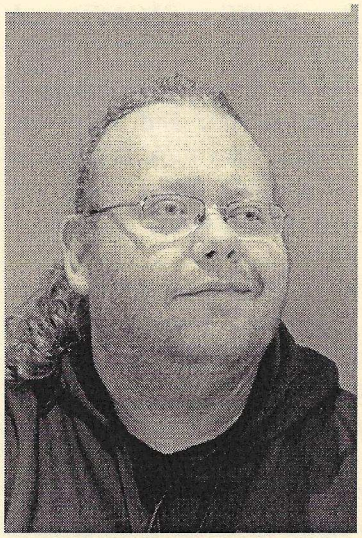


Wilf James, Chief Editor



Jan van't Ent, Editor

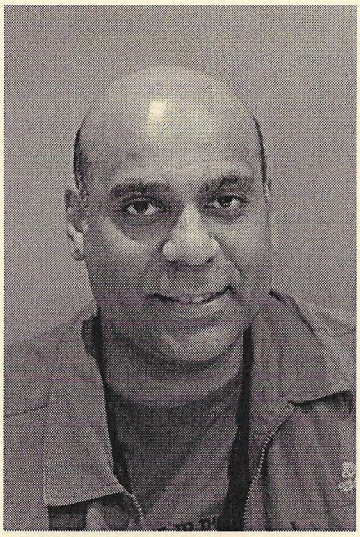
Eddie Cochrane, Editor



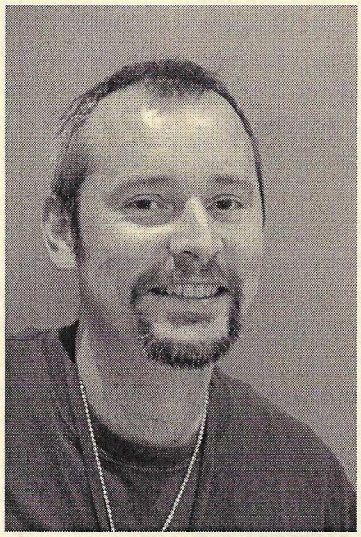
Bo Hansen, Photo Editor

Chris Garcia,
Hugo-nominated Writer

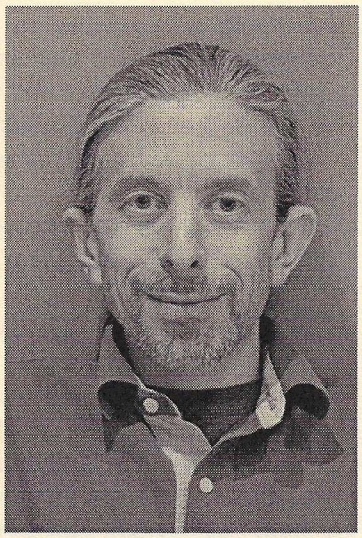
Ilana Grune, Writer



Chad Dixon, Photographer



David Ulicek, Writer



Gary Blog, Laser printer guru

and a cast of 'honest and helpful' gophers, volunteers and random passers-by.